

## Hans Knot International Radio Report January 2014

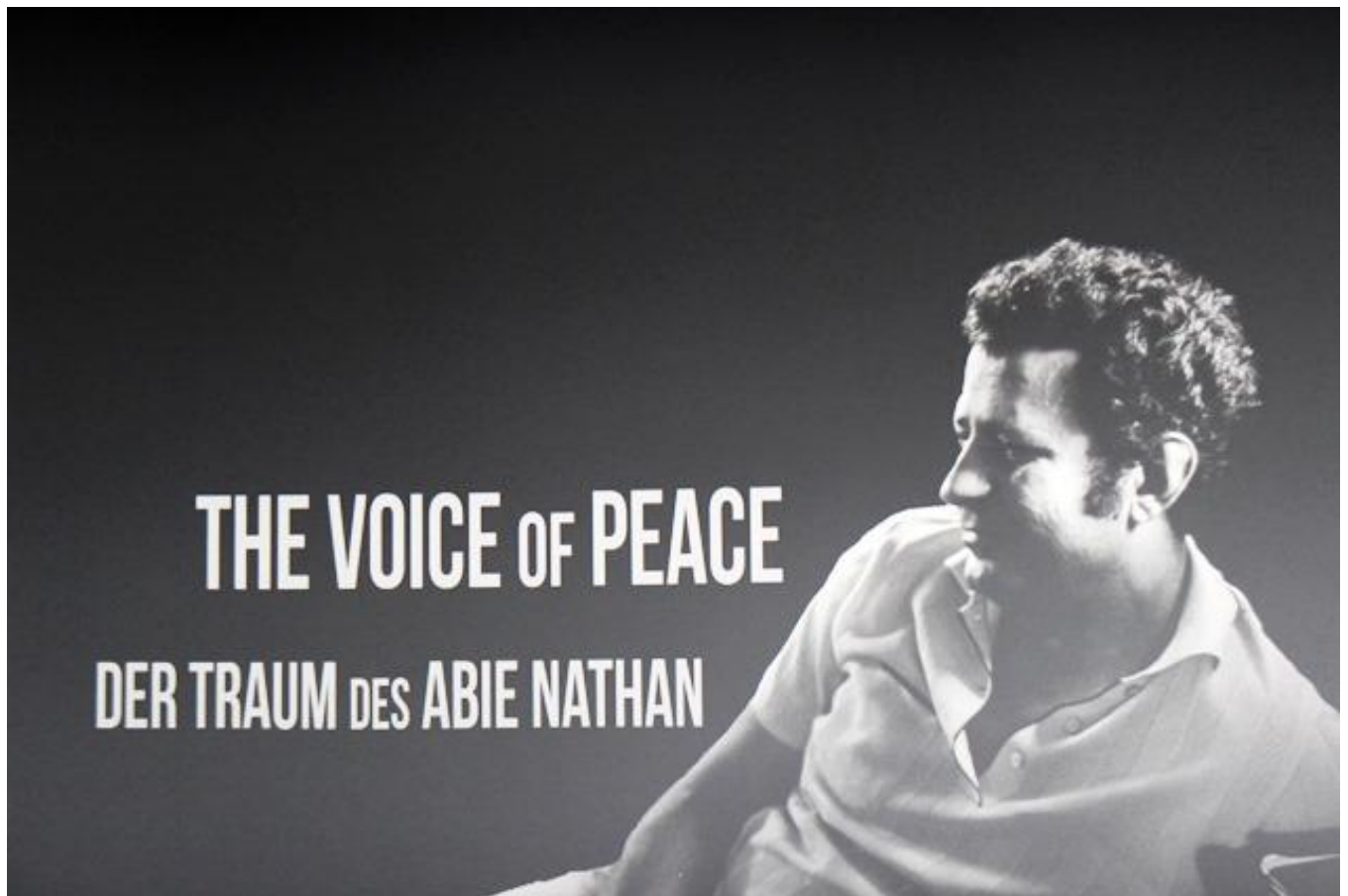


Welcome to this edition of the Hans Knot International Radio Report and as this edition appears before the festivity period I want to wish you a very happy Christmas as well as all the best for 2014; the year we celebrate that Radio Caroline as well as Radio London started broadcasting from International waters and brought a lot of pleasure into the lives of the then baby boomers. As always thanks a lot for those who responded to last issue and a part of the response can be found back in this issue.

*The Voice of Peace, der Traum des Abie Nathan, a documentary movie from Eric Friedler.*

Abie Nathan has been a very active Peace activist as well as a humanitarian person who put a lot of effort into his work and brought help wherever he could all over the world. Either it was the starvation in Biafra in the late sixties or an earthquake in Guatemala, amongst others, the late Abie Nathan was always there to bring personal help and money. Next to that he bought, in 1968, a ship in Groningen and after rebuilding it into a radiostation, started broadcasting the messages for Peace for all the people in the Middle East, from somewhere in the Mediterranean. Partly it was a commercial radio station and with the money they earned Abie got his hands free to do even more humanitarian work. In 2006 Hans Knot was Editor of the book 'Voice of Peace Memories and Abie Nathan's Work'. He worked together with a lot of people, who either were befriended or worked together with Abie Nathan. The book

tells the story of this big Peace Activist, who even went in jail as he was on speaking terms with PLO foreman Arafat.



In 2012 the now 42 years young and well-known German producer Eric Friedler picked up the story of Abie Nathan's Peace, humanitarian work as well as the Voice of Peace. On December 18<sup>th</sup> the preview took place of a 90 minute long, very interesting, documentary, which brings people like Yoko Ono, Schimon Peres, Michael Caine, Zubin Metha, Gideon Levy, Moshe Zimmerman, Don Stevens, Robbie Owen amongst many others, talking about the person Abie Nathan and his work, whereby the Voice of Peace is also an important part of Eric Friedler's very impressive documentary.

For those who can receive German TV NDR/ARD 1, 'the Voice of peace, der Traum des Abie Nathan' will be aired on Tuesday January 7<sup>th</sup>. 22.45 hrs. CET.



Former Program director Voice of Peace Don Stevens, Eric Friedler and Hans Knot after the preview in the Savoy Theatre in Hamburg  
Photo: Jana Knot

Let's see what David Fewkes has send to me:

'Hans I have looked at your reports over the years and as an avid anorak of Radio Caroline and the Ross Revenge, I have had the opportunity to visit Tilbury Docks and see for myself the changes going on with The Ross Revenge. I had the opportunity to take photos from the Ross Revenge with the new Antenna mast.

I must admit my personal Christmas present would be to see the Ross Revenge back out on the sea as a piece of music history and transmitting how it used to be. As anytime there is a pirate broadcast of the old era there is more than a passing interest shown by the population. As the spread of DAB and internet stations increases the format presented does not come anywhere to what we had old days. I suppose that's my dream as I go to my older years.

Keep up the good work and its always interesting to pick new news that comes in from time to time. Regards David Fewkes'.

Thanks David and after asking him Martin has put David's photo on our offshore radio flickr pages:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets>

It was in 1968 this next photo was taken in Amsterdam. After the MV Cito was bought in Groningen by Abe Nathans Peace Foundation the ship went to Amsterdam and was repainted by volunteers. Completely white painted with the words 'Voice of Peace' in several languages. This photo has never been published before and look who's painting too?



Photo: Rob Olthof

Next a long e mail from Bart Serlie from the Netherlands:  
'Hi Hans, since decades I am enjoying your great International Radio Report with lots of interesting matters and images. Several times I've made a contribution for it and the last one was quite a long time ago. Last November the time for that was there again, but

because of already so many pages in your former report, it has become for the one under the Christmas tree.

After nearly 7 years of shows on 1602 Radio Waddensee I did my last one a week before that famous (also because of those technical difficulties) last programme ('De Laatste Boot') with the closing down and more live from Urk on 29-6-2013. During the last week of that AM station I went to Belgium because of 'Caroline meets Atlantis on 19'. While being part of that great project on AM (very low power on/ near 927 kHz), FM (92.2) and the Radio 19 streams, I was asked to take over Offshore Time on Saturday evenings from 20.00-22.00 hours and make an own offshore programme of it. During a clean radio break I thought about the ingredients for it, especially while in Germany and Denmark.

On 31-8-2013 (not just a date ...) 'BS goes offshore' (<http://www.radio19.fm/programmas.php?sort=c&id=250>); was launched on Radio 19 (<http://www.radio19.fm/>) and had to stop on last 30/11. Because of last 2/11 the 10th (available as a download, including that special version of The Moody Blues- Nights In White Satin; in great memory of Rob Olthof: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ng9kxz87pd2qqn1/E6uFrDuIO3>) show of it was streamed, the idea arose to let your many readers know (more) about the programme.

Before I go further I'd better mention the ingredients. The first song is of The Beatles, 4x per programme 'The Offshore Time Machine' ('De Zeezender Tijdmachine') with offshore radio (& tv) facts of the past, contributions concerning offshore radio (& tv) stations and varied music, including a historical Alarmschijf, Treiterschijf and Mi Amigo's Lieveling.

Last 15/11 an e-mail came in from Radio 19, including the message that 30/11 will be the last

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lpbi879cfvbrwix/fZYCo28RTf?m=> 'BS



goes offshore' because of changes in the programme schedule with for instance more live broadcasts (with interaction). Others and I were asked for specials (on a regular base). After my clean radio break I will see further.



Bart Serlie (archive Serlie)

Not long after I started 'BS goes offshore' requests came in to make a syndicated version of it. Meanwhile the idea has cropped up to give 'BS goes offshore' (when there's enough interest for it I will also consider an English version of it) a try to become a syndicated programme on that special date 31-8-2014. Then it will be 40 years ago since Radio Veronica, Radio North Sea International and Radio Atlantis closed down due to the anti pirate law in the Netherlands.

Stations which are interested in 'BS goes offshore' can e-mail me totally free ("copyright": late Johan Maasbach) for download links concerning number 1-14 (probably not with the 256 kb/s of the masters) which were made for Radio 19. Also listeners and readers of your report can e-mail me about that (and more) on [abcd.fam@gmail.com](mailto:abcd.fam@gmail.com).

Best wishes (including a Merry Christmas and a happy 2014) to you, Jana and all the readers of your great International Radio Report.

Kind regards on behalf of the ABCD family ([www.serlie.nl](http://www.serlie.nl)) Yeah, Phil in Wigan still to be updated and more. Finally that will be somewhere in 2014



P.S. The Floating Dutchman was introduced by me in March 2001:  
<http://www.radiovisie.eu/nl/nieuws.rvsp?art=00045280>

Let's go back to 1979 and the Voice of Peace and Stephen Oliver: 'The following info might be of interest to you - I worked on the Voice of Peace as a broadcaster for a few weeks back in 1979. Please feel free to post this info - see link - I have no idea if there is any existing audio from my broadcasts from that time or any photos, etc. I would be most interested to know - hope this is of use to you.'

Dear Stephen as far as I know no recordings from your time are listed in our archive. I've put you on the list of the International Radio Report, where many deejays and other people from the VOP time are readers from. We had a reunion in 2006 and in the coming report news about a brand new documentary about Abie and the VOP. Feel always free to tell your memories in the report  
Best greetings Hans

Thanks for getting back. Maybe if one can work out "Peace Day" Israel 1979 and cross reference with existing broadcasts from the sound archives of the Voice of Peace - might prove successful in locating my broadcasts. Just a thought Anyhow, here is a piece I wrote on The VOP:

'Looking back now upon the near vanished 'frequency' of my youth; through filtered static, 'The Voice of Peace' radio ship hauls into view, mist shrouded as memory. A ghost ship. But in 1979, broadcasting "Somewhere In The Mediterranean" out of the Port of

Jaffa, Israel - this was an adventure waiting to happen to a young broadcaster. I had not yet turned 30.

Some years prior to my signing on, an old trawler had been bought and converted into a radio ship by Abe Nathan, an ex-fighter pilot in the Israeli seven-day war against Egypt. His vision was to promote the cause of peace and unity by radio broadcast throughout the region. Apparently, he had made his money through a hamburger franchise called David's Hamburgers



This allowed him to purchase an old trawler and so realise his dream of creating a working radio ship. Sort of a latter-day prophet, with microphone plus radio frequency afloat, at undisclosed latitude. Well-publicised pirate radio.

Abe wore one colour, and that was black. He stated that he would wear no other colour until peace was declared in the Middle East. He died some years back, but not before he had decommissioned the ship and scuttled it.

The floating radio station had served its time and had its day. There was strong vision behind that radio ship. I was glad to be part of it



for a while - before the inevitable claustrophobia set in, surrounded by rivets and metal got to me in the end, and I eventually took the supply boat back to port. For the few weeks I was on board, however, this was an adventure I shall never forget. On 'Peace Day' in Israel, I dedicated the Rolling Stones' Sympathy for The Devil to the cause.

The Israeli patrol boats who kept an eye on us would cruise by and hurl empty shell casings with requests tucked inside onto the deck with a resounding crash. For the weeks I worked on board that radio ship, we played everything from classical music to rock`n`roll - along with endless broadcasts in English and Hebrew, recorded by Abe Nathan, promoting the message of peace as he saw it. Payment came in the form of regular meals and a shared cabin, usually with one of the ex-Radio Caroline pirate ship crew - mostly English guys.



**Abe in white and not black, interviewed on the Peace ship  
Archive: Hans Knot**

Abe Nathan proved a shadowy figure - I had to meet him so that he could check me out. A man with a pre-occupied air, Abe was notable

for many things, not least of which was flying over Cairo and bombing it with flowers. Today it looks like that embattled city could do with another dose of pollen!

This year is rapidly coming to a close. I currently do a little part-time contract work with Maniapoto FM, which shares a similar idealism and vision to the old radio ship.

*Stephen Oliver has published several volumes of poetry, including Harmonic and more recently Apocrypha. Travelled widely. Freelances as a voice artist and writer. He resides in the north King Country.*

This memory from Stephen originally appeared: © Fairfax NZ News

© [Waikato Times](#) December 5th, 2011.

Well from New Zealand to another part of the world we arrive in Southern America. In Surinam to be precisely. From there it's Gerard Smit - former deejay and newsreader on RNI Dutch Service:

'Hello everybody. As a former RNI employee several times a special ship came to my eyes. This time I decided to take a photograph and share it with you in the report. It could be a granddad of what we know as the ship from offshore radio days. I think it has a pirate outlook. Well that's all and 'houdoe and garoeties' as I always closed my shows on RNI.



Thanks a lot Gerard and what I heard from someone collecting photographs of light towers and ships, this former lightship is now official owned by the Dutch Light Ship Association and they're searching now for backers to get it back in better condition and make a museum of it.



Photo: Rob Olthof

Long time ago I showed a radio t-shirt in the report. We have too much stories, but it must be in this Christmas edition. A t-shirt is next from 1972 when Veronica changed wavelength to 538. If you also have a photo, with such a shirt just send it to: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl)

Let's go back to 1977. As I've written many years for Monitor Magazine and I'm the only one from the former team still writing I've got some years ago the official rights from Don Scott, who ran the magazine together with Buster and Jean, to use parts out of the

issues of Monitor Magazine. I've decided to highlight some things went wrong during the convention held in London in 1977:

Not everything ran smoothly for the organisers. Through no fault of their own they found that they were not able to accommodate all the people who had been provided with tickets. The hotel, in fact, had double-booked all the single rooms! This resulted in a party of Spanish tourists being able to listen to all the 1967 offshore radio tapes that had been specially piped over the hotel's internal radio system while those who wanted to hear them had to take a coach to another hotel three miles away, where they had the dubious pleasure of being able to listen to Capital Radio on their bedside radios. No one went so far as to say this spoilt their whole weekend, but certainly to many it was a big disappointment. The programme didn't run entirely to schedule, either. The first disruption came on Saturday when the programme called for an audio-visual presentation on Radio Caroline to be given by Tony Allan - and the said Tony Allan was not to be found! In fact, he did not put in an appearance at the Convention at all, and to this day nobody knows why; but the outcome was that "The Story of Radio Caroline" was not shown, and Caroline was represented only by several films made for television in the sixties. The second big disappointment came on Sunday, when we were to see a film about Radio City entitled "The Tower of Power". This was a feature I'd particularly wanted to watch. It had been produced for a commercial TV company, but never televised because it was considered to be "too controversial". But when it began, there was no soundtrack. Patiently the fans waited for the fault to be put to rights, but it turned out the engineers in the projection booth couldn't get the projector to work on that particular type of film, which had its soundtrack on a magnetic strip rather than being a video-cued type as all the other films had been during the weekend. Eventually the engineers conceded defeat and the film was taken off.

The remainder of Sunday's programmes were quite as entertaining Saturday. I saw

Next a wonderful surprise as Ton Droog, better known to offshore radio lovers as Tom Collins from Radio 227 and later Radio Veronica, has sent to me a lot of photographs from his time aboard the MV Laissez Faire in 1967.





Some you can see now in this report. First you saw Tom Collins himself at the wonderful studio panel:



This one is showing a young Lex Harding and when seeing this photo he reflected with: 'what a nice mixer'. Well it's the first time, as far as I know, a photo of him in the Radio 227 studio has been released.

Of course there were many other interesting people on the Laissez Faire. For those of the younger generation I can tell that 5 different radio stations were on the Laissez Faire, at one stage named 'The MV Olga Patricia'. We've heard Swinging Radio England, Britain Radio, Radio Dolfijn, Radio 227 and Radio 355 transmitting from this radioship, anchored off the English east coast during parts of the year 1966 and 1967. Let's see another photo of this excellent series given by Ton Droog after more than 45 years, for which I'm very thankful. It shows the program director of Radio 227 from

which several stories go round, which I won't bother you with. It's 'Hello' Tony Whitters aka Windsor.





This was the late Alan Black who was also a well-known cartoonist and worked for the Beatles at a certain stage. Well you can find all of the Tom Droog series on our archive at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets/72157637973190296/>

I've sent the internet address to some of his former colleagues and all responded very thankful and here's one of the e mails which came in afterwards: 'Hello Hans, Sorry for the slow reply, have been a bit busy with Christmas coming and all that and not checked my e-mails. Well what wonderful pictures of the very happy days on the Laissez Faire, it was so sad it ended when it did. The shots of Alan Black, Mark Sloane, John Aston, Tony Monson, Dave McKaye and Tony Windsor certainly brought back the memories of 1967, Please give my thanks and best wishes to Tom Collins for providing such excellent photos and to yourself for forwarding them to me. Best Regards, Martin Kayne.'

'To tell the truth' was a sixties television series in which every time three people with the same name are shown. Only one is the real person. In black and white here you can find an edition in which Ronan O'Rahilly is featured. Have fun with thanks to Chris Edwards [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=jO42aYB6\\_8Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=jO42aYB6_8Q)

Recently the link to the next story on internet was send to me and has an interesting part about guy who was admired by part of the Caroline team, almost made it into the station but not far later went into jail:

<http://arthurpewtysmaggotsandwich.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/rod-true-halloween-story.html>

scroll to photo Ross Revenge and start to read.

We go to Sweden for some a reflection on Phil Champion's story in last issue: 'Dear Hans Knot, thank you very much for your December report. It's always interesting to read about Radio Mercur. I recall I

was contacted by Phil Champion perhaps a year ago but didn't have time to support him very much. Who am I? Name: Goran Carlsson Born, yes, 1943 in Landskrona/Sweden. I was 15 years old when Skanes Radio moved in to the house I was living in early 1959. I'm a radio amateur with call sign SM7DLK and I've been interested in Offshore radio since 1959 but only in Radio Mercur/DCR and Radio Syd. I'm collecting materials like recordings and so on for many, many years. I'm a friend of Nils-Eric Svensson (founder of SRM) and meet with him almost every summer when he is in Sweden.

I'm trying to keep a low profile with Offshore radio as amateur radio keeps me very busy, but I still have offshore (Mercur/DCR/Syd) material to sort when time permit. And this summer Nils-Eric gave me the remaining of the Skanes Radio documents, company registrations, letters, and salary and sales reports from that period. I think it's strange that he kept all this papers up to now. But there's a lot to sort out.

Now the reason why I'm writing this email. I think we sometimes feel that details are important. When I read in Phil's article that Radio Mercur closed five minutes before 2400 in July 31 1962 it reminded me that I have an "on-air" recording that prove that Radio Mercur closed 35 seconds before 2400. The tape was given to me by Ib Hansen, who was a technician aboard Cheeta and Cheeta II. It's an interesting recording.

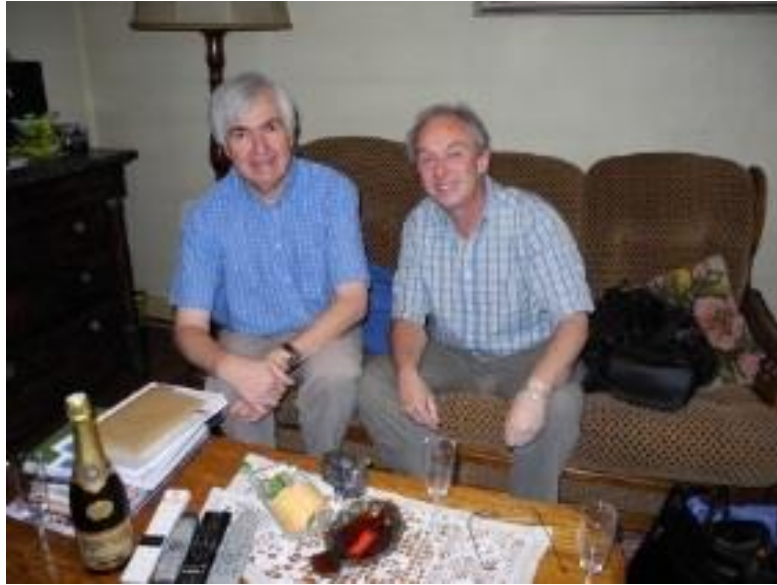
Content of the audio file abstract: The transmitter is switched off after 1 min 40 sec. Tuning around the FM-band After 2 min 45 second Radio Syd is tuned in (playing the Swedish Haderian Hadera, confirmed by next day newspaper). After 4 min 15 seconds we hear Danmarks Radio saying time is 00,02,0 (two minutes past 2400). Conclusion is that Radio Mercur closed approximately. 35 seconds before 2400. It's fun isn't it. Best regards Goran Carlson.

Thanks Goran and I've forwarded your important conclusions to Phil Champion. No one will ever write the complete story but we can all help to share information to learn more: [HKnot@home.nl](mailto:HKnot@home.nl) Take it for me, the history never can be written correct. That's why I'm still writing after so many decades my articles, books and the monthly report. Take care and feel free to write or place any interesting material into the report.

And Phil responded after hearing the sound bite with: 'Hi Hans, thanks for the e-mail. I think I got the 'five minutes to midnight' from a Scandinavian website. It just shows that you can still find out new things. I'll put something about it into "Radio Review"; no doubt you'll have it too in your monthly report. Hopefully, Goran can share with us all, through your report, any interesting items he comes across when he goes through the Skånes Radio documents. Regards, Phil.

Next an e mail from Belgium from a reader who reflected on the letter from France Radio Club and wrote: 'What people from France Radio Club wrote is totally correct. We've come in a time, especially in Flemish part of Belgium, that we're tormented with radio station which are all playing the same records, have the same presentation style and horrific commercials. It's really time for a brand new start in radio. Maybe those on Radio Caroline or other organisations who want to change the radio world really have to do it from international waters. I asked myself if there are still people who want to go for this and bring it to reality to start a brand new offshore radio station. Geert Roelandt Belgium.'

Thanks Geert for this but I can assure you no one will ever start such a radio station due to the fact a lot of money will be lost when the authorities will enter the ship and tow it away within days. Open your eyes and think about the new laws which are already active since the nineties of last century. It will be forever reminiscing about our offshore radio hobby.



François Lhote France Radio Club and Martin van der Ven

Photo: Ulrike van der Ven

Very soon it will be 50 years ago Radio Caroline started broadcasting from international waters and some people already started their own blog, like Klaas from Klazienaveen. Just have a look at:

[www.rossrevenge.blogspot.com](http://www.rossrevenge.blogspot.com)

If you love old radios you've to visit the next interesting site:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/vintageradio/>

With thanks to Martin van der Ven

Jon Myer of the Pirate Hall of Fame send this sad news: 'Good morning Jon, I thought that I would let you know that Ken Evans passed away yesterday morning. I don't have many details at the moment but he has been in and out of hospital in recent years and had only recently returned home after several weeks in rehabilitation. Never the less it is quite a shock as Jean and I had lunch with him in the dining room at his retirement home earlier this month and he, while quite frail, was in good spirits. We planned to be in touch with him again before Christmas. I first met Ken in 1959 when he employed me as a panel operator at Radio 2CH Sydney. He left for the UK in early 1962 and I followed him in June of that year.'

In November/December 1963 he persuaded me to join Radio Atlanta in a move that would change my life. He has always been there when it mattered and I am proud to call him a friend. Could you please pass on this sad news to his colleagues in the UK?

With kind regards Dermot Hoy aka Bryan Vaughn.'

Thanks to Bryan and John. The later one wrote a very good tribute to Ken Evans:

<http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk/kenevans.htm>

Colin Nicol shared information about the funeral, which took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month with Alan Bailey who shares it with us: A brief summary of my trip across the country to Ken's funeral. It was a rushed and rather tiring journey - overnight Sunday, a couple of hours' rest at the central Sydney hotel and then an hour north to Mona Vale on the coast. The flight over took four hours and the return, five; airbus each way. Now Wednesday at home, I'm still a bit weary but recovering quickly. The funeral parlour is diagonally opposite where Ken lived. We looked around his unit and the retirement village, which is top class and the reception was there afterwards. Few "names" there - but the attendance was 60, with quite a few from the retirement home and the rest, apart from we visitors (a friend who also knew Ken well who went with me and myself) and a few others, mostly family. I gave Carolyn, Ken's closest niece, the file I put together with tributes from the internet and my pirate radio etc. files, with photos.

The service was not long over half an hour and then we went across the road. Apart from Dermot Hoy (Bryan Vaughan) and his wife Jean and myself, the other ex-pirate there was Peter James, who seems well and we had a jolly reunion, despite the occasion. Bruce Menzies came - I don't know his age, but it is considerable. He is well and truly retired. He was something of a Sydney institution, as an ABC newsreader and presenter (TV). I never knew him, but knew his name. There was a wonderful speech at the reception by one of Ken's



great nieces, showing in how much great affection he was held by the family and how amazing was his life, points also described in a speech at the service by Carolyn's husband Geoff.

Carolyn told me that Ken had been suffering from heart problems and had a lot of heart attacks over a long time. He never let on to the rest of us. I did know he had a massive heart attack during his not last, but previous-to-that, hospital stay. That came out accidentally in my conversation with him at the time. He had, long since, lost the sight of one eye but never let on about that either, though I knew.



The late Ken Evans  
Photo: Colin Nicol

It seems he had a severe attack on Wednesday morning or so and fell back. He recovered and went to bed for the day. Feeling well later, he rang Carolyn and her husband and they had a happy dinner together that evening. She had a call at 2.00 am telling her he had collapsed again and went to his unit where the paramedics told her



he could not be revived. It was a massive coronary. That is why his death was reported as being Thursday morning.

Although a brief visit, it seemed like a week, we did so much and kept going the whole time. It was great to see Sydney again - a great world city and looking more like NYC every time I go, I got a crick in my neck from looking up. The location around that amazing harbour is a never-ending wonder. The weather was perfect all the time and a visit by the famous ferry across the harbour to a popular surfing beach at Manly on the north shore, was a bit nostalgic, as I worked there for a few months, back in 1990. I'd gladly live in Sydney, as would most people, but my family is here, over 3,000 kilometers away. Please pass on any information you feel appropriate. Best wishes Colin Nichol.'

Thanks Colin and Alan for sharing this sad information.



In this issue of the Hans Knot International Radio Report two photos which are taken during the seventies and eighties from two different radioships, the MV Mi Amigo and MV Ross Revenge. Both ships were used by Radio Caroline in international waters. Both

photos are showing ships from Greenpeace and yes there were some connections between both organisations.



Photos Archive Freewave Media Magazine (anyone took these?)

I've already put these photos on my Facebook page and it was, amongst others, Herbert Visser, who responded with: 'The Greenpeace-vessel alongside the Ross Revenge, the Sirius, was the sister-vessel of the tender of the Ross Revenge, the Bellatrix. And this boat, the Sirius, is now permanently moored in Amsterdam, almost alongside another permanently moored vessel, the Norderney of Radio Veronica.'

Paul Rusling also reflected: 'The Rainbow Warrior supplied the Mi Amigo a few times, nice to see her with the sails in full use, saving fuel. All ships should do this; most are in no real hurry to get where they are going. The French Secret Service sank the Warrior while she was tied up for the night in New Zealand, as they had heard she

might go near some far flub atoll in the Pacific where they were testing nuclear bombs.'

We already mentioned the Pirate Radio Hall of Fame and here's the monthly update:

New this month:

- Forty years ago Radio Atlantis began broadcasting from the mv Jeanine. We turn the clock back and relive the station's short but eventful life;
- we have some photos of Radio 355 DJs, taken by their Radio 227 colleague Tom Collins;
- Guy Hamilton has added some more fantastic photos to his Radio Essex and Radio 270 albums;
- we pay tribute to Ken Evans, the man in charge of the music on Radio Atlanta and then Radio Caroline South during 1964/5, who died this week;
- and we link to a meeting of two old pirates: ex-offshore DJ Keith Skues compares notes with ex-landbased pirate Gordon Mac.

When [The Pirate Radio Hall Of Fame](#) started, over 13 years ago, RealAudio was the favoured format for web streaming. The BBC and other UK broadcasters were using it on their websites so it seemed sensible to fall into line. Things have changed since then and I have recently been receiving complaints, especially from people using smartphones or tablet computers, saying they are having difficulty accessing the audio. There are currently more than 960 offshore radio airchecks on the website and this month I have begun the process of converting them to mp3. As of today, more than half the clips are now available in both RealAudio and mp3. The remainder will be added soon.

The next update will be on New Years Eve so, in the meantime, I'd like to wish you and yours a very happy Christmas.

Best wishes, Jon [www.offshoreradio.co.uk](http://www.offshoreradio.co.uk)



And now to our series on the northern radio ships we go to:

**WHAT CAN WE LEARN ABOUT THE SCANDINAVIAN PIRATES?**

Part 3 -DCR-A

Philip Champion

DCR was Denmark's second pirate - a breakaway from the pioneering Radio Mercur which then merged with them after four months. Information for this article is taken from Paul Dane's talk at 'Zeezenders 20' in 1978 which is included with DCR recordings I've listened to on the <http://radiohistoria.jvnf.org> website. Some extra items came from [www.scandinavianoffshoreradio.com](http://www.scandinavianoffshoreradio.com) (staff lists) plus Gerry Bishop's 1975 book 'Offshore Radio.' Henrik Nørgaard, who wrote a book on Radio Mercur and DCR in 2003, has checked the article and made some corrections.

Tests for 'DCR' ('Danmarks Commercielle Radio' ) - it was known on air by both names - began on September 14th 1961. We know that Anders Dahlerup was on these tests. They used 93.94 MHz but always announced it as '94.' The first words on DCR on opening on September 15th were the station name given by a male which was followed by a trumpet jingle rather like Mercur's. This led to the opening 15 minute "Her er vi" (Here we are) programme with Vagn Jensen and Hans Vangkilde who were talking about commercial radio and, of course, themselves. There were no records played in it. In a

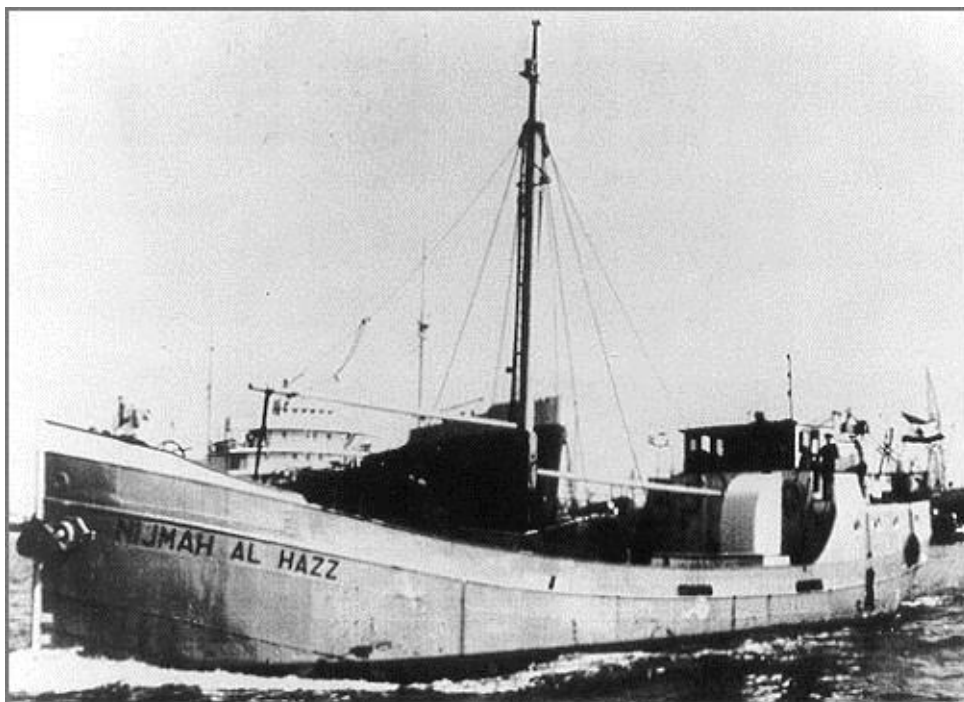
45 minute programme 'Hvad siger de? (What do they say?") Hans Vangilde talked to Vagn Jensen then went out and about recording short interviews with a number of people (10 men and two women) with a record between each of them. As he talked street noise could be heard. One of the topics mentioned was State radio and commercial radio and what they wanted to hear from the new station. Music was half instrumental, half vocal with five records each but no artists or titles were given. It ranged from light instrumental/classical including the 'Minute Waltz' to several 'show' tunes (like 'There's No Business Like Show Business') and some easy listening sounds, all vocals in English except for several songs together from a Danish opera. The show was introduced and closed by a female announcer. This was followed by 'Blid Musik' (Gentle Music) which included a monologue by Hannah Bjarnhof.

DCR set itself up as a serious alternative to Danmarks Radio. As well as pop and easy listening music they wanted to include opera, theatre and talk - the more commercial Radio Mercur not including the latter three. DCR also wanted less prominence to adverts than Mercur gave. They felt that advertising caused undue pressure or influence on programmes. They wanted to compete with Danmarks Radio's public service outlook while incorporating the popular shows aired on Mercur. Most staff were key people, often original, who had defected from Radio Mercur. According to 'Offshore Radio' the staff dissatisfaction went back to 1960 and 1961 when those concerned made repeated and failed attempts to buy out the two shareholders: founders Ib Fogh (75%) and Peer Jansen (25%).

Leading the setting up of DCR was Mercur's Production Manager Benny Knudsen. He was joined by legal consultant Børge Agerskov, the cousin of Mercur's founder Peer Jansen and who had originally investigated the legal possibilities of broadcasting from a ship, and who had helped to set up Mercur. Others were Hans Vangilde, Mercur's Programme Director who had been with them from the start. With him came Vagn Jensen who had run Radio Mercur's



advertising operation. Now he ran Ekko Reklame from Næsborgvej, Hvidovre, København. The DCR operation was run from a location south of the capital. Others to come from Radio Mercur were 'the best of Mercur's staff': Anders Dahlerup who was DCR's Programme Manager, announcers Nete Schreiner and Lea Dalby (also archivist) plus engineers Jerry Katz and Preben Ploug. With them was the financier Alex Brask Thomsen (from Finansbanken) who had got Mercur on its financial feet two years earlier. To have such major defections after the pioneer pirate was established for three years shows their dissatisfaction. They had expected to take more Mercur staff with them but some stayed put. DCR did also recruit staff new to radio like announcers Jorgen Krogh and Bent Thalmey (not listed in Gerry Bishop's 'Offshore Radio' book) and engineers Jens Erik Lindhardt and Poul Nyrop.



Lucky Star. Photo: Soundscapes Archive

The 240 ton 'Lucky Star' had the radio equipment fitted out at sea en route from Belgium where the vessel had been equipped, to avoid the authorities' attention. With the limited area of International Waters in the Øresund the 'Lucky Star' was anchored only a few



hundred yards from the Radio Mercur ship. The transmitter was a German-made Siemens 5kW one but a directional aerial gave it an ERP of 44kW on '94' MHz. Whereas in Sweden Radio Nord had shown for five months that it was possible to broadcast both taped programmes and live from the sea DCR decided to keep to the all-tape format as on Radio Mercur. The studios were in the København suburb of Hvidovre while the sales office was in the centre of the capital. Whereas Radio Mercur broadcast at breakfast then went off until mid-afternoon (though gradually filling these hours) then came on and off throughout the evening, DCR from the start missed out the morning and just ran, except Sundays, from 3.30 pm through 11pm but Saturdays 2 pm to 3 am.. On Sundays they broadcast for most of the day: 9 am until midnight. Their signal covered all of Sjælland, east Fyn and on good days over to Århus on the east coast of Jylland. Thanks to the [www.offshoreradio.de](http://www.offshoreradio.de) website we can find out a lot more about the vessel. It was built in 1913 as 'Roelfina 1', a two-master freighter, by the H. van der Werff shipyard in Stadskanaal in the northern Dutch province of Groningen. The 21 metre long vessel was a sailing ship without an auxiliary motor. (An earlier Scandinavian radio ship had also started as a sailing ship: the 'Margarethe' of 1921 was a three-masted schooner which was later fitted with an engine and in 1960 was converted to the radio ship 'Bon Jour' of Sweden's Radio Nord and eventually was renamed "Mi Amigo.")



Roelfina 1  
Archive Holwerda Family

The 'Roelfina 1' was owned by Hendriks Holwerda in Gasselternijveen, Netherlands. It was named after the owner's wife Roelfina. In 1927 a three-cylinder four cycle engine by Brons Motoren Fabriek was fitted. This lasted until 1961 when a Dan Normo engine was installed. At some point she was rebuilt and her tonnage increased from 131 to 167. It went through a succession of owners from 1932. First H. Sloots Rzn bought it in 1932 then J. Sloots was the owner. In 1946 C. Holscher of Rotterdam bought it for their Kustvaartbedrijf NV fleet and renamed it 'Taurus.' Ten years later it was sold to A. Oudman also of Rotterdam who sold it on in 1960 to Alex Brask Thomsen of København. The ship was said to be registered as the 'Nijmah Al Hazz' in the Lebanon. Though no records of that exist a photo clearly shows this name painted on the bow. It was though registered as 'Lucky Star' in Panama. For several weeks in the summer of 1961 it was moored in the Maashaven in Rotterdam at the Waalhaven shipyard. **To be continued in next issue Phil Champion**

Next we go to an important finding of someone we're searching for many years and so I got this e mail: 'Thanks for the superb reports over past year and season greetings. Regarding the whereabouts of Mike Ross, as far as I'm aware, he is still in the Greater Yarmouth area. Attached is a picture of him a couple of years back. Actually, it maybe more than a couple of years ago. He was involved in a street cleaning campaign and is quoted in this document as well

<http://archive.keepbritaintidy.org/conference/2008/presentations/Tuesday%20Workshops/EnCams%20GREAT%20YARMOUTH%20STREET%20SCENE%20ASSESSMENT%20TEAM2.ppt>

Mike or Colin has been mentioned several times in the local paper over the years for community things. Mark Keable.

Well thanks a lot Mark. It was in 1987 in London that I met and interviewed Mike Ross for the last time at Driftback 20. I

remember him as one of the very good deejay team in 1973/1974 on RNI.



Mike Ross

Some kind of a promo: 'Clive Smith Hot N Gold Plays Country and Country Rock from Transmission facilities in the USA. We are 100% legal and pay copyright fees via Loudcity. [www.hotngold.co.uk](http://www.hotngold.co.uk)



Next here's another promo, this time from Rob Jones, who is known from Radio Luxembourg. 'Greetings, I have to go out tomorrow morning, so I've uploaded the Christmas special tonight and it's now

playable on-demand on the Rosko website front page. Here's a direct link to the audio if it's quicker for the guys on Facebook to use:

<http://samurai.fm/emperor-roskos-christmas-special-2013/emperor-roskos-christmas-special-2013>

Remember that Martin van der Ven is still updating our photo archive, with photos from the files of the late Rob Olthof, Martin himself and mine as well as from other people donating photos to the archive. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/offshoreradio/sets>

Time for a nickname in the report. We heard in a program from 1971 Joost den Draayer on RNI, calling himself 'Joost van het water'.

Next some space for Bob LeRoi. Seasons compliments and welcome to our long overdue Update:

'ScrapBook' brings you some freshly discovered photographs of the very first boarding by Radio City on the Knock John Fort, with amazing photographs and memories from one of the caretakers in Radio Sutch and City Pictures - Part 15 with a very special Christmas offer on the Radio Essex book.

During the summer Red Sands Radio was visited by a delegation from Canadian TV to participate in producing a documentary about the station, its roots and the 1960's. We share some of the images in 'Canadian TV visits Red Sands Radio'.

Locally, there are photographs and audio from the final of the Horse Factor held at the Wheatsheaf, Hungry Horse, Swalecliffe, in 'Horse Factor 2013'.

'One Subject One Link' has part two of our three part feature on computers in music radio. Finally, in the 'Personal Pages' check out photographs from just one of last season's Brands Hatch Enthusiasts Meetings. Thank you for all your interest, contributions and support during 2013

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and A Happy New Year

[www.bobleroi.co.uk](http://www.bobleroi.co.uk)

Just before closing the news a happy message came in that Roger Day will be heard on weekdays at the breakfast show on a new radiostation. So from me a happy congratulations Roger.

<http://www.redstone.fm/>

Well that brings us to the end of the report and we finish with our special Christmas card for everybody.

